

# Patrika

## Chinmaya Mission Los Angeles

JANUARY 2015

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## Upcoming Events

Valmiki Ramayan Discourse Series by Swami Ishwarananda	Feb 2-6	6:30 am - 7:30 am 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
<b>CORP Workshop:</b> Own Your Business Financial Analysis Workshop	Feb 7	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
<b>Kalanjali Event:</b> <a href="#">Tunes and Scales</a>	Feb 7	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
CHYK Class: Break the Bondage by Swami Ishwarananda	Feb 11	7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
<b>Mahashivaratri Celebrations</b> <a href="#">Program details available on website</a>	Feb 17	6:30 am onwards
Bhagavad Gita Discourse Series by Swami Ishwarananda	Every Sunday	9:00 am - 10:15 am 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm
Fundamentals of Vedanta Lectures by Acharya Mahadevan	Every Sunday	9:00 am - 10:15 am 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm
Yoga Classes	Every Thursdays starting 2/19	7:00 pm—8:00 pm
Guided Vedic Chanting by Swami Ishwarananda	Every Saturday	6:30 am - 7:30 am
<b>**Save the Date**</b> Bhagavad Gita Chanting International Competition (Chapter 15): CMLA Prelims <a href="#">Details available on website</a>	April 25	

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## Thus Spake The Master

*Do not cry.*

*There is nothing in life that can ever happen,  
which is serious enough to deserve our tears.*

- Swami Chinmayananda

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## Words Of The Wise

*The greatest purushartha (act of free-will) of a sadhaka is true and total surrender.*

*If that is done, the individual's purushartha ends*

*and God's will takes over thereafter.*

- Swami Tejomayananda

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## THINK!

**Bow Unto Him**

*Learn the logic of devotion now*

*Our own mind is like warrior's bow*

*Stands rigid when unstrung and proud*

*With the cord of devotion to beloved Lord*

*When duly bent, strung without fail*

*Un-formidable and ready to assail...*

*Contemplation on Him as the arrows*

*Destroying all sins that cause sorrows*

*It gains victory, prosperity and sovereignty*

*Sings Shankara, extolling devotion to divinity!*

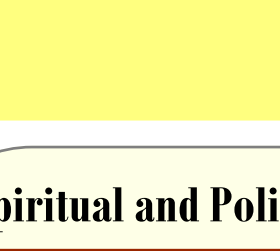
- Swami Ishwarananda

for e-Satsang blog, click [here](#)

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LOS ANGELES**  
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*Over Thirty Years Of Service To Humanity*



## Spiritual and Political Leaders Meet

### FOR THE RECORD



**Puja Guruji Swami Tejomayanandaji met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Jan. 29 in New Delhi.**

Guruji has invited the PM to flag off the Chinmaya Jyoti Yatra, that is the Chinmaya Sandesh Vahini on May 8. Also present were Swami Mitrananda and Swami Advayananda.

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## Chinmaya Rameshwaram Turns Five

Chinmaya Rameshwaram was abuzz with excitement and activity on January 17, 2015. The occasion was the fifth Anniversary celebration of the center which has seen so much growth in membership and in the physical structure itself.

The anniversary festivities were held in the newly remodeled dining hall with over 300 members and others in attendance. It was meticulously planned and executed by dedicated volunteers under the guidance of Swami Ishwarananda.

The celebrations started bright and early with the chanting of slokas invoking Lord Ganesha followed by the Sudarshana homa, Navagraha homa and the Ramabeeja homa. Vedic chanting and all pujas were done by CMLA member volunteers and Chinmayanjali group under the guidance of Pandit Sivaramakrishnan.

This was followed by the Guru Paduka Puja. Acharya Mahadevanji brought the Guru Padukas ceremonially to the place of worship amidst the sounds of the Chenda drum beating. The Paduka Pooja was conducted by Janaki Raman Kuppa along with Swamiji and Mahadevanji.



The young members of the Sruti group sang songs beautifully with utmost devotion and were followed by the adult Swaranjali group who also rendered enjoyable bhajans. The talk by Swamiji on Guru Ashtakam composed by Adi Shankaracharya, was filled with wisdom. Sumptuous lunch Prasad was distributed to all at the conclusion of the celebrations.

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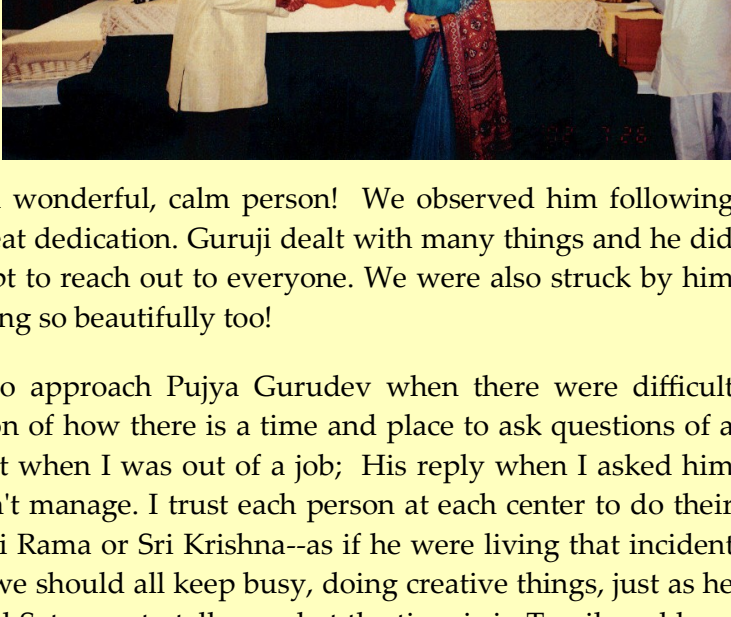
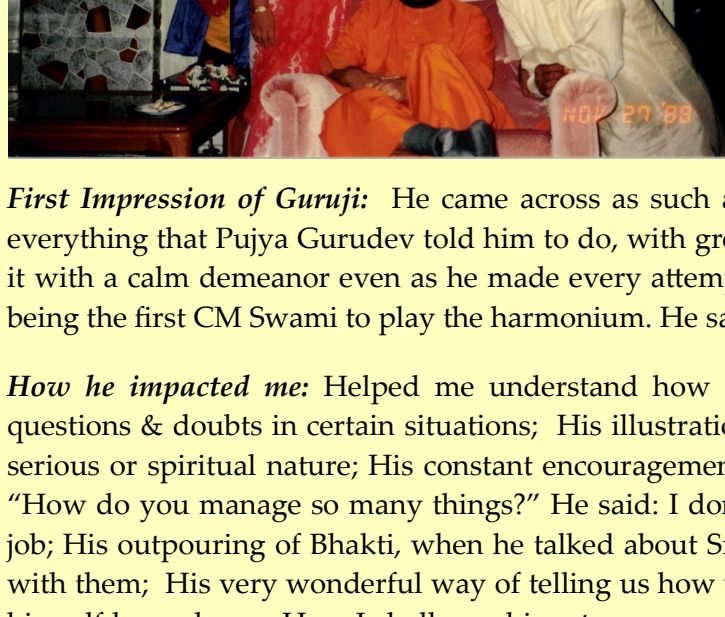
## Acharya Mahadevanji Reflects On Guruji

*Puja Guruji Swami Tejomayananda will visit Chinmaya Rameshwaram from June 28-July 4, this year. As CMLA readies in excitement to welcome him and eagerly wait to hear him speak on "Foster your Freedom" based on the Bhagavad Gita, Patrika brings to you the reflections of a few members who have had the blessed opportunity to have spent time in his presence and to have learned at his feet.*

Acharya Mahadevanji and his popular wife Viji, as everyone knows have been instrumental in sowing the seeds of CM in SoCal. Guruji, when he was the Acharya at San Jose, used to travel to L.A. and often stayed with the Mahadevan family at their home.

Here Mahadevanji tries to summarize his sentiments:

**First meeting with Guruji:** In Olivet College where the International Camp with Puja Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda was held in 1986 by Chinmaya Mission at Flint, Michigan.



**First Impression of Guruji:** He came across as such a wonderful, calm person! We observed him following everything that Puja Gurudev told him to do, with great dedication. Guruji dealt with many things and he did it with a calm demeanor even as he made every attempt to reach out to everyone. We were also struck by him being the first CM Swami to play the harmonium. He sang so beautifully too!

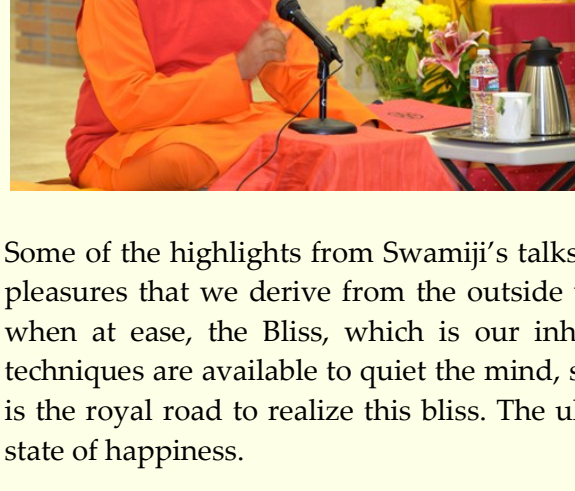
**How he impacted me:** Helped me understand how to approach Puja Gurudev when there were difficult questions & doubts in certain situations; His illustration of how there is a time and place to ask questions of a serious or spiritual nature; His constant encouragement when I was out of a job; His reply when I asked him "How do you manage so many things?" He said: I don't manage. I trust each person at each center to do their job; His outpouring of Bhakti, when he talked about Sri Rama or Sri Krishna—as if he were living that incident with them; His very wonderful way of telling us how we should all keep busy, doing creative things, just as he himself keeps busy; How I challenge him at some small Satsangs to tell me what the time is in Tamil, and how well he gets around that question.

**Some nice memories:** His wonderful friendly gesture of asking me to talk 'Chinese' at some get-togethers or sneaking up behind me and saying something in 'Chinese'; His enjoyment of the BMI skit enacted by Sw. Prakashananda, Sw. Iswharananda and myself in India at the Acharya Conference; His love for cooking Khichari with a lot of ghee-- and his demonstration of the same at a bhiksha at Shobha Naimpally's house.

**The spiritual practice or understanding that I follow and credit to my interaction with him:** To work with love for everyone—his message "Prem se kaam karo". His warmth, that allows you to discuss any subject with him and get an answer.

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## Antelope Valley Community Enjoys Discourses by Swamiji



The Hindu Temple of Antelope Valley, for which Swami Ishwarananda had participated in the ground breaking ceremony two years ago, proudly hosted him at their completed facility on Jan.23-24. At the two day satsang, Swamiji spoke with humor and wit on the 'Pursuit of Happiness'.

In the discourses, Swamiji elaborated on the book authored by Puja Guruji Swami Tejomayananda on "Tips for Happy Living" and also quoted extensively from various Vedantic texts and Upanishads. He passed on several take home messages that inspired and aimed to transform.

Some of the highlights from Swamiji's talks: Do not depend on the outside world for your happiness. Sensory pleasures that we derive from the outside world will fail to evoke joy (*anandam*) if one's mind is agitated but when at ease, the Bliss, which is our inherent nature will beam through our personality as joy. Various techniques are available to quiet the mind, such as japa, prayers, and karma yoga and, said Swamiji, meditation is the royal road to realize this bliss. The ultimate quest of human aspiration is to seek and realize this eternal state of happiness.

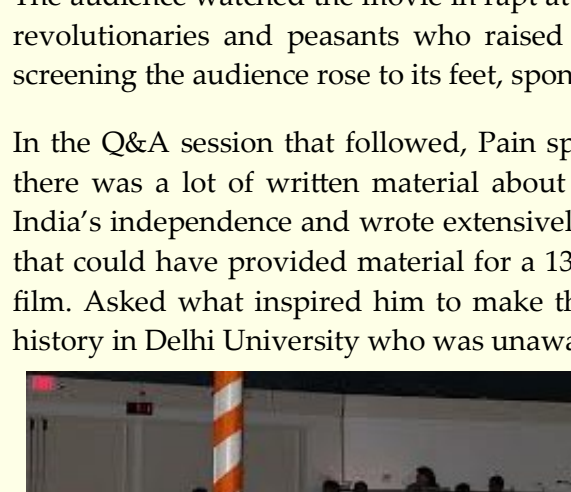
The gathered congregation was also treated to other spiritual offerings, with the Jan.23 evening beginning with shloka chanting by Balavihar children, followed by a Bharatanatyam dance choreographed to the Hanuman Chalisa by Anjana Pathmarajah. Jan.24 being Vasant Panchami, it commenced auspiciously with the Saraswati puja.

Dr. Vyra Pillai took the opportunity to highlight to the audience the various activities of Chinmaya Mission both locally and internationally.

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## Movie Screening of “Chittagong”

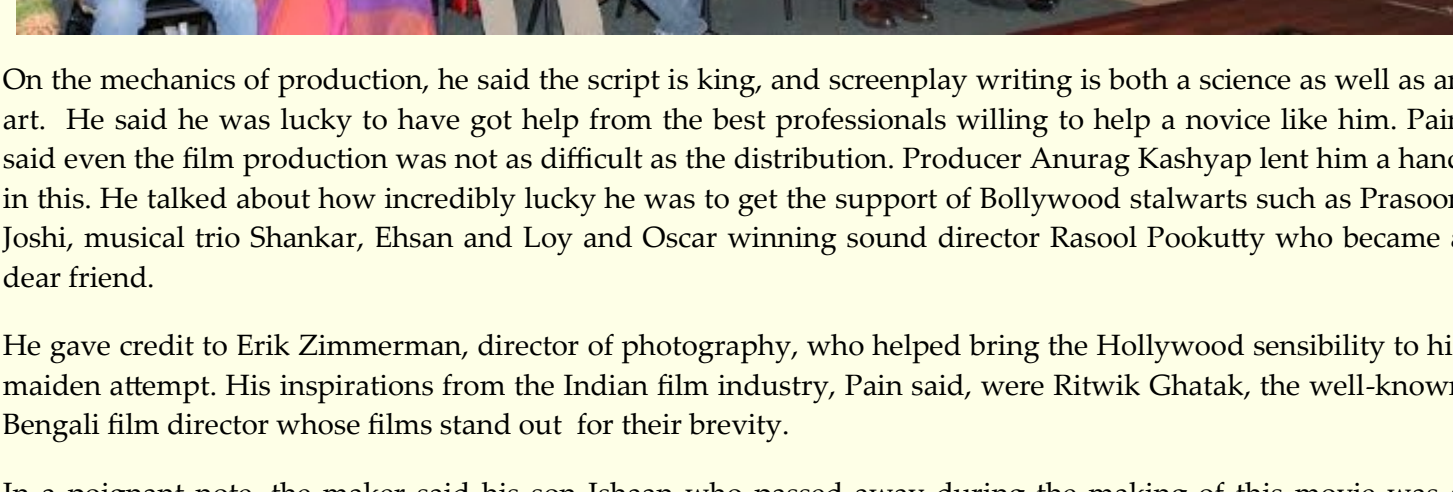
Kalanjali screened the movie 'Chittagong' on January 10 to a packed auditorium. The screening of the movie kicked off the event lineup for 2015.



CMLA's Raj Mantha introduced the producer-director Dr. Bedabrata Pain, a resident of Los Angeles. Pain talked about his movie which was released in 2012 and has won several prestigious awards in various film festivals including India's Golden Lotus award. He said the movie was about the extraordinary courage exhibited by ordinary people of Chittagong a city now in Bangladesh but then a part of British India. At the outset he promised the audience that the movie would make them think, feel, laugh and cry at the same time.

The audience watched the movie in rapt attention, impressed by the incredible bravery and victory of the young revolutionaries and peasants who raised their voices against the mighty British Empire. At the end of the screening the audience rose to its feet, spontaneously giving the director a standing ovation.

In the Q&A session that followed, Pain spoke of the research that went into making a historical film. He said there was a lot of written material about the real life events since many of the protagonists lived long after India's independence and wrote extensively about these events. He said he had been able to gather information that could have provided material for a 13-part series! It was challenging, he said, to condense it into a feature film. Asked what inspired him to make this movie he said it came about in a conversation with a student of history in Delhi University who was unaware of the female revolutionaries of the Chittagong uprising.



On the mechanics of production, he said the script is king, and screenplay writing is both a science as well as an art. He said he was lucky to have got help from the best professionals willing to help a novice like him. Pain said even the film production was not as difficult as the distribution. Producer Anurag Kashyap lent him a hand in this. He talked about how incredibly lucky he was to get the support of Bollywood stalwarts such as Praseon Joshi, musical trio Shankar, Ehsan and Loy and Oscar winning sound director Rasool Pookutty who became a dear friend.

He gave credit to Erik Zimmerman, director of photography, who helped bring the Hollywood sensibility to his maiden attempt. His inspirations from the Indian film industry, Pain said, were Ritwik Ghatak, the well-known Bengali film director whose films stand out for their brevity.

In a poignant note, the maker said his son Ishaan who passed away during the making of this movie was a staunch supporter of this endeavor and the movie is dedicated to his memory.

Pain is a scientist with 87 patents and 150 science publications to his credit. He is also a gifted painter, playwright and singer.

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